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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6528  
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - CHINA'S MILITARY  
BUILDUP

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Friday morning included a GOJ plan to propose to the Diet the elevation of a Bank of Japan (BOJ) deputy governor to the top BOJ post.

¶2. "China Building up Military Power" The conservative Sankei's editorial said (3/7): "The Department of Defense said in its recent report on China's military capabilities: 'China's improving and expanding military capabilities are changing the balance of military power in East Asia. Improvements in China's strategic capabilities have implications beyond the Asia-Pacific region.' A report on military spending released by China on Wednesday appears to substantiate U.S. concerns.... Although Chinese Premier Wen has said that China is increasing its military capabilities only to respond to threats. However, concern about China's rapid military modernization has not been dispelled. China lacks transparency, as it failed to report its major defense procurement plans in its defense whitepaper issued two years ago. We cannot help but conclude that Beijing's failure to disclose sufficient information is intentional. The U.S. report warns that China is building its military power with a view to a possible contingency in the Taiwan Strait, as well as disputes over territory and resources. The U.S. appears to be concerned that China will come to pose a threat to peace and security in the region and around the world. China needs to be accountable for its military buildup."

